

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 19 have been amended. Claims 20-23 have been canceled with traverse. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 8, 9, 13, 14 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 1-5, 7, 11, 12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Arai (US patent no 5,966,346), hereafter "Arai." Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai in view of Guyett et al. (US patent no 6,147,935), hereafter "Guyett-346." Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arai in view of Guyett et al. (US patent no 6,310,833), hereafter "Guyett-833."

A. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8, 9, 13, 14 AND 19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office has asserted that claims 8, 9, 13, 14 and 19 are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants have amended claims 8, 13 and 19 to state that "...an alarm function of the alarm clock is disabled." Applicants assert that this amendment further clarifies the invention. Accordingly, Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

B. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5, 7, 11, 12 AND 15-18 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

With regard to the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection over Arai, Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of June 24, 2004 with their representatives. In the interview, the Examiner agreed with Applicants' representatives that Arai does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, Arai fails to disclose, *inter alia*, an alarm clock in which a user can "designate distinct alarm signals" and tailor "volume levels." Specifically, under the current invention, a user has the freedom to configure the clock his or herself. In sharp contrast, all of the Arai alarm signals are set from the factory. The user is not allowed to designate distinct alarm signals. Similar to alarm signals, all of the signal volumes in the Arai alarm clock are pre-set from the factory, thus limiting its operation by a user. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the rejection.

With respect to dependent claims 2-5, 7, 12 and 16-18, Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to independent claims 1, 11 and 15 from which claims 2-5, 7, 12 and 16-18 depend. Since the cited art does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

C. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 6 AND 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)


In the Office Action, claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Arai in light of Guyett. Applicants herein incorporate the arguments presented above with respect to independent claim 1 from which claims 6 and 10 depend. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

With regard to the Office's other arguments regarding dependent claims, Applicants submit that all dependant claims are allowable based on their own distinct features. However, for brevity, Applicants will forego addressing each of these rejections individually, but reserve their right to do so should it become necessary.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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